

From: Big Blackfoot Riverkeeper [mailto:jerry@bigblackfootriverkeeper.org]
Sent: Friday, October 21, 2011 12:26 PM
To: FS-comments-northern-helena
Subject: Mike Horse Mine reclamation plan - comments

Kathy,

I'll keep my comments short. As the Executive Director as the Big Blackfoot Riverkeeper Inc., this letter represents BBRK's official position on the Upper Blackfoot Mining Complex Repository Siting Study.

I have been following the efforts of Trout Unlimited (both state level and at the Big Blackfoot Chapter level) and am in agreement with their position on this study. More specifically, my biggest concerns focus on Section 35, which appears in all likelihood to be the ultimate repository. Should Section 35 be the final repository, my concerns are:

1. I think it is essential that a synthetic liner be used beneath the fill at the site. Its proximity to the river and tributaries, coupled with clear evidence of periodic high water tables, greatly increases the possibility of infiltration of heavy metals and other toxins into the nearby water table and/or surface waters.
2. Construct a non-highway access road from the mine site to Section 35 as suggested by Bruce Farling of Montana Trout Unlimited.

Thanks for the excellent work done by your and other agencies on this project so far. Your willingness to work hard in cooperating with the public to find the best alternative is greatly appreciated.

Regards,

Jerry O'Connell
Executive Director
Greenough, Montana



www.bigblackfootriverkeeper.org

joconnell@blackfoot.net

(406) 244-5612